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**THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING IN
LONDON, 1910.**

THE leading feature of the London meeting of the British Medical Association was the activity of its scientific and workaday side, which, for once at least in the history of these annual gatherings, was not entirely overshadowed by the social aspect. In the Sections of Otology and Laryngology the intensity of life was quite on a level with that of the Congress as a whole, for not only was the attendance at the discussions unusually large and the level of the debates unusually high, but even on the final day, when, as a rule, the reaction from scientific and social excitement induces a dulling of the tone of the meeting, individual papers in both Sections gave origin to debates of considerable freshness and vigour.

On this occasion the Association formally recognised otology and laryngology as two separate sections, a proceeding which, of course, is quite in harmony with the normal evolution of medical specialism. Although officially segregated, however, the sister sciences must ever remain the closest of companions, and the unfortunate arrangement which led to their being housed under widely separated roofs proved to be a source of great inconvenience to the many members whose interests are equally divided between the two subjects. Moreover, as the President of the Otological Section pointed out, there is a considerable tract of country common

to both otology and laryngology in and around which many useful topics of discussion may be found.

Which of the topics set for discussion excited the keenest interest or aroused the most lively debate it would be difficult to say. That on the endoscopy of the upper passages, introduced by Drs. von Eicken and Paterson, was followed with close attention by a crowded audience eager to learn the latest development in the opening up of this new field of activity. In like manner the members of the Section of Otology took full advantage of their opportunity of becoming acquainted at first hand with the new labyrinth tests as expounded by Dr. Bárány, and with the operative surgery of the internal ear as described by Mr. West. Dr. Bárány's address, like that of Dr. von Eicken, was a model of lucidity, thoroughness, and good English. Of the speakers who followed those leaders in the discussions British science had no reason to feel ashamed.

Each of the Sections was given a problem to solve in the subjects of tuberculosis of the ear and vaso-motor rhinitis. In the former the striking figures produced by Dr. Milligan with regard to the frequency of the disease in children evoked considerable comment, and will doubtless stimulate further investigation, while the debate on vaso-motor rhinitis was chiefly remarkable for the warm advocacy of adrenalin and the calcium salts in the treatment of this obstinate complaint.

On the third day two papers on the anatomy and surgery of the tonsil, read before the Section of Laryngology, were made the occasion of an important debate upon the question of tonsillotomy or tonsillectomy, in which an obvious tendency was manifest in favour of the latter procedure, save in the case of simple uncomplicated hypertrophy.

For the subjects dealt with in the many other interesting papers laid before the sections our readers are referred to the abstract report of the proceedings now appearing in these columns.

The sections were under the firm and experienced guidance of Dr. E. Law and Mr. Herbert Tilley respectively, to both of whom, as well as to the secretaries of the sections, members owe a considerable debt of gratitude for the undoubted success which attended their efforts to render the London meeting an important event in the history of British otology and laryngology.